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Description of two new species of jumping spider *Colonus* F. O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1901 (Araneae: Salticidae) from Brazil and Argentina

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new species;
taxonomy;
South America.

Abstract. – We present a taxonomic study with descriptions and illustrations of two new species of *Colonus* F.O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1901 (Araneae, Salticidae): *Colonus gracilis* **sp. n.** (♂♀) from Argentina, and *Colonus alineae* **sp. n.** (♂♀) from Argentina and Brazil. In addition, we present the first description of the female of *C. melanogaster* (Mello-Leitão, 1917).

Rubio G.D., Stolar C.E., Baigorria J.E.M. & Baptista R.L.C., 2023. – Description of two new species of jumping spider *Colonus* F. O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1901 (Araneae: Salticidae) from Brazil and Argentina. *Faunitaxys*, 11(58): 1 – 10.

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Introduction

South American jumping spider diversity is particularly diverse and, according to many authors, it might be highly underestimated. The genus *Colonus* F.O.P.-Cambridge, 1901 is a well distributed taxon throughout the American continent, with 14 species having been recognized at present.

For many years, most of the *Colonus* species were misplaced within the genus *Thiodina* Simon, 1900, until Bustamante et al. (2015) analyzed type specimens and original descriptions and divided this genus into other 3, revalidating *Colonus* and *Nilakantha* G.W. Peckham & E.G. Peckham, 1901 and leaving *Thiodina* with the first species described for Chile by Nicolet (1849).

Twenty years ago, Aline Pires de Melo-Nogueira produced a revision of the Brazilian species of *Thiodina* (nowadays *Colonus sensu stricto*) (Melo-Nogueira, 2003). Unfortunately, her thesis was never formally published leaving a large part of the knowledge unavailable. That work deals with seven species, including one undescribed. That was also mentioned a year later when Richman & Vetter (2004) carried out a full revision of the genus for the United States.

The species of the genus *Colonus* can be described as medium to large jumping spiders, with elongated body and high carapaces, and with some very distinctives markings, specially males with colorful orange and white patterns at the ocular area and two thin longitudinal light-colored bands over the abdomen, and females with a general pale coloration, contrasting spots on the ocular quadrangle and two broader and darker bands over the abdomen (see images in Metzner, 2023). These species prey on a wide variety of arthropods, but they seem to have some preference to prey upon other spiders, including jumping spider (Richman & Vetter, 2004; Hill, 2018).

The study of salticids in Argentina has intensified due to the contribution of the GISA (Salticids Research Group of Argentina), whose members have been conducting intense sampling in northeastern Argentina (Rubio et al., 2022, 2023). In this region there are many endemic species, and the spider

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fauna is gradually threatened mainly due to anthropogenic pressure by logging and fires (Rubio et al., 2021, 2022). Here, there are four cited coexisting species of *Colonus*: *C. germaini* (Simon, 1900), *C. pallidus* (C. L. Koch, 1846), *C. robustus* (Mello-Leitão, 1945) and *C. vaccula* (Simon, 1900) (Rubio & Baigorria, 2016; Rubio et al., 2018). In this paper, we have corroborated the presence of *C. melanogaster* (Mello-Leitão, 1917) in Argentina and we describe two new species for this fragile and threatened region, plus the female of *C. melanogaster* for the first time. Thanks to the fact that the comparison of these new species with the full Brazilian revision of described species in Melo-Nogueira's thesis produced no close matches, made it easier for us to diagnose species in the current work.

Material and methods

Descriptions style, terms, abbreviations and measurements follow one of the current holistic studies of *Colonus* by Richman & Vetter (2004). Female genitalia were dissected as described by Levi (1965), examined after digestion in a hot ~15% NaOH solution, and cleared in clove oil to examine their internal structure. Temporary slide preparations were observed and photographed using a Leica DM500 compound microscope and a Leica M60 stereomicroscope. Structures were sketched from incident light photograph models using a computer system for drawing and image processing (Wacom digitizer tablet with GIMP software). Measurements were taken directly from a microscope ocular lens with an ocular micrometer and are expressed in millimeters. Photographs of live spiders were taken using a Nikon D3400 digital camera with a Micro-Nikkor 85 mm lens. Plates were edited and composed in Corel Draw.

Acronyms

Institutions

IBSI-Ar = arachnid collection of the Instituto de Biología Subtropical, Misiones, Argentina.

MACN-Ar = arachnid collection of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia”, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

IBSP = Instituto Butantan. São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil.

MCN = Museu de Ciências e História Natural da Fundação Zoobotânica do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

MCTP = Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia, PUC. Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

MZSP = Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil.

LBRE-Ar = arachnid collection of the Laboratorio de Biología Reproductiva y Evolución, Córdoba, Argentina.

UFRJ = Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Morphology

ALE = anterior lateral eye;
At = atrium;
Ca = carapace;
CD = copulatory duct;
CO = copulatory opening;
dRTA = dorsal retrolateral tibial apophysis;
LP = lateral coupling pouch;
PLE = posterior lateral eye;
PME = posterior median eye;
RTA = retrolateral tibial apophysis;
S = spermophore;
Sp = spermatheca;
vRTA = ventral retrolateral tibial apophysis.

Taxonomic treatment

Family **Salticidae** Blackwall, 1841
Subfamily **Salticinae** Blackwall, 1841
Tribe **Gophoini** Simon, 1901
Genus ***Colonus*** F. O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1901

Colonus gracilis **sp. n.**

(Fig. 1-7; 10, 12, 14; 27-28)
ZooBank: http://zoobank.org/DE61CBCB-EF2F-4978-AF82-D7188FFD74FB

Holotype, ♂ (IBSI-Ar 01297), INTA Experimental Station (S27.6575°, W55.4374°, 283 m a.s.l.), Cerro Azul, Misiones, Argentina, 22/X/2018, coll. C.E. Stolar.

Paratype, 1♀ (IBSI-Ar 01946), [same data as holotype].

Diagnosis. – Male of *C. gracilis* **sp. n.** resembles *C. melanogaster,* and *C. pallidus* and *C. robustus* to a lesser extent by the general palp aspect, especially in retrolateral view of the vRTA (Fig. 2-3; compare with Rubio & Baigorria, 2016: Fig. 3e-f, h-i and Pett et al., 2021: Fig. 6E-F). It can be distinguished from the former species by having a vRTA with a twist and curvature at the tip that directs it to the retrolateral side, and by having a generally slenderer body, notable especially in the width of the carapace and the relationship of its edges with the PLE (Fig. 1; compare with Pett et al., 2021: Fig. 6D). In addition, the chelicerae paturon of *C. gracilis* **sp. n.** has dark mahogany to black integument (*vs.* pale in *C. melanogaster*). *Colonus gracilis* **sp. n.** differs from *C. pallidus* and *C. robustus* by having a shorter, twisted and curved vRTA, with the tip directed retrolaterally (Fig. 2-3). Female of *C. gracilis* **sp. n.** is very similar to those of *C. melanogaster* by the structures of the epigyne (Fig. 5-7; compare with Fig. 11-14 in this paper), but can be distinguished from this by having the border of the CO less sclerotized, each atrium (At) longer than wide, the lateral pouch (LP) directed more anteriorly, and the second stretch of the CD widest (indicated with an asterisk). Additionally, the female carapace (C) of *C. gracilis* **sp. n.** is slenderer than that of *C. melanogaster* (notable especially in the relationship with its edges and the PLE). See the comparison of figures 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14.

Etymology. – The specific name refers to the slender cephalothorax and abdomen of this species (Latin *gracilis* = slender); adjective.

Description of the male (holotype IBSI-Ar 01297)

Total length 6.96; carapace length 2.20; carapace width 2.15; abdomen length 4.30. PME much closer to ALE than PLE. Leg formula 4132. Carapace brown with few scattered black setae, some white scales on the thoracic slope; ocular quadrangle reddish mahogany, with all eyes in large dark blotches, two triangular marks of short black setae and a central white one behind and between the PLE; posterolateral margins of carapace with dark line. Clypeus dark brown, chelicerae paturon dark mahogany to black in front, with iridescence. Three promarginal teeth and one simple retromarginal tooth. Endites and labium mahogany to pale brown. Sternum yellow-brown. Abdomen whitish, pale yellow with a slightly darker central band and many (25-29) scattered black dots. In life two dorsal longitudinal white lines are noted. Grayish band on venter. Legs brown, darken from the distal end of the femora; darker still in the first two pairs. Palps brown with darker cymbium and bulb, and lighter femur; tibia with conspicuous RTAs, dRTA directed dorsally, flattened and wide; vRTA well-sclerotized, first directed ventrally and then with a twist and the tip directed retrolaterally. Embolus slightly flattened, well-sclerotized; arises on the prolateral side of the bulb, between this and the cymbium. Part of spermophore visible through tegulum.

Description of the female (paratype IBSI-Ar 01946)

Total length 7.60; carapace length 2.76; carapace width 2.02; abdomen length 4.70. PME closer to ALE than PLE. Leg formula 4312. Carapace

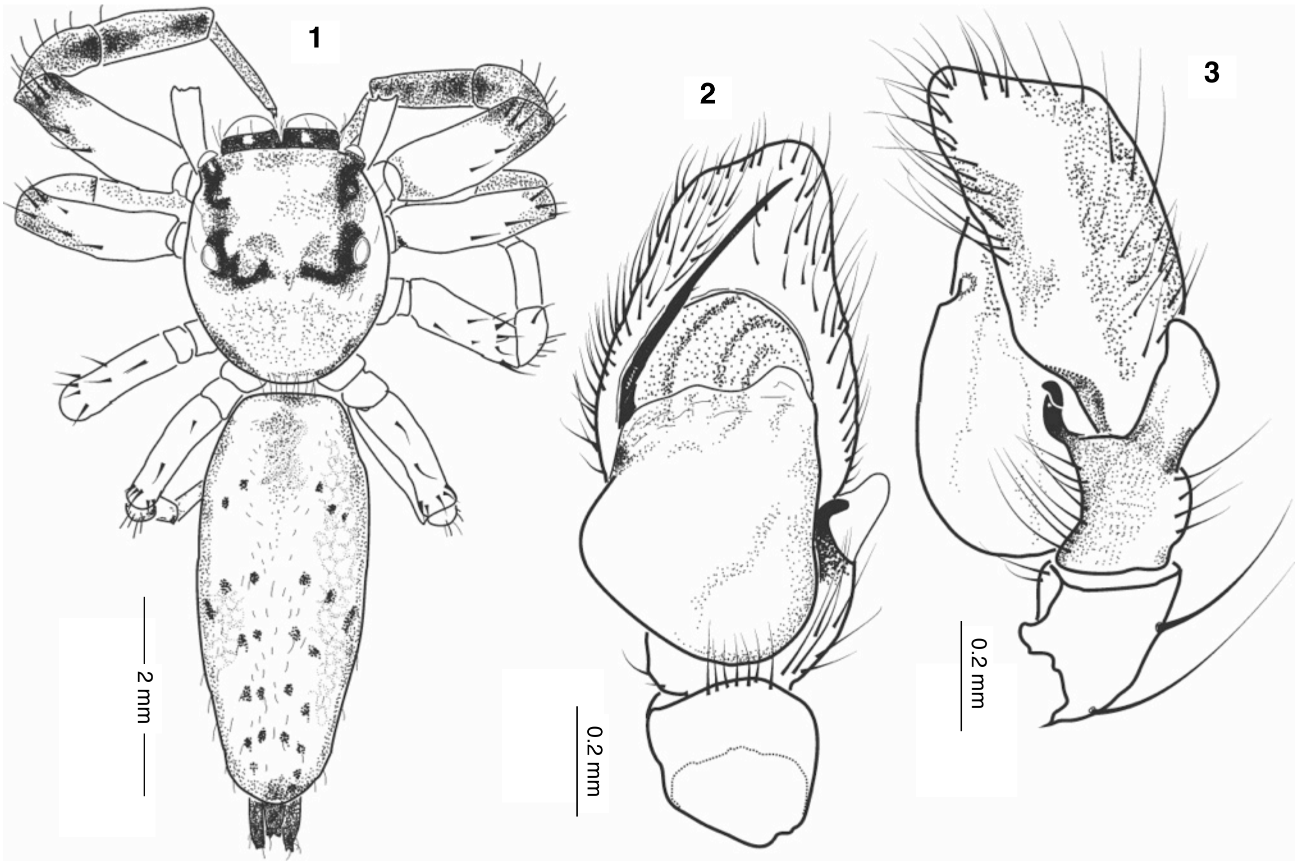

Fig. **1-3**. *Colonus gracilis* **sp**. **n**., ♂ holotype.

1. Dorsal habitus. **2**. Palp in ventral view. **3**. Same, retrolateral.

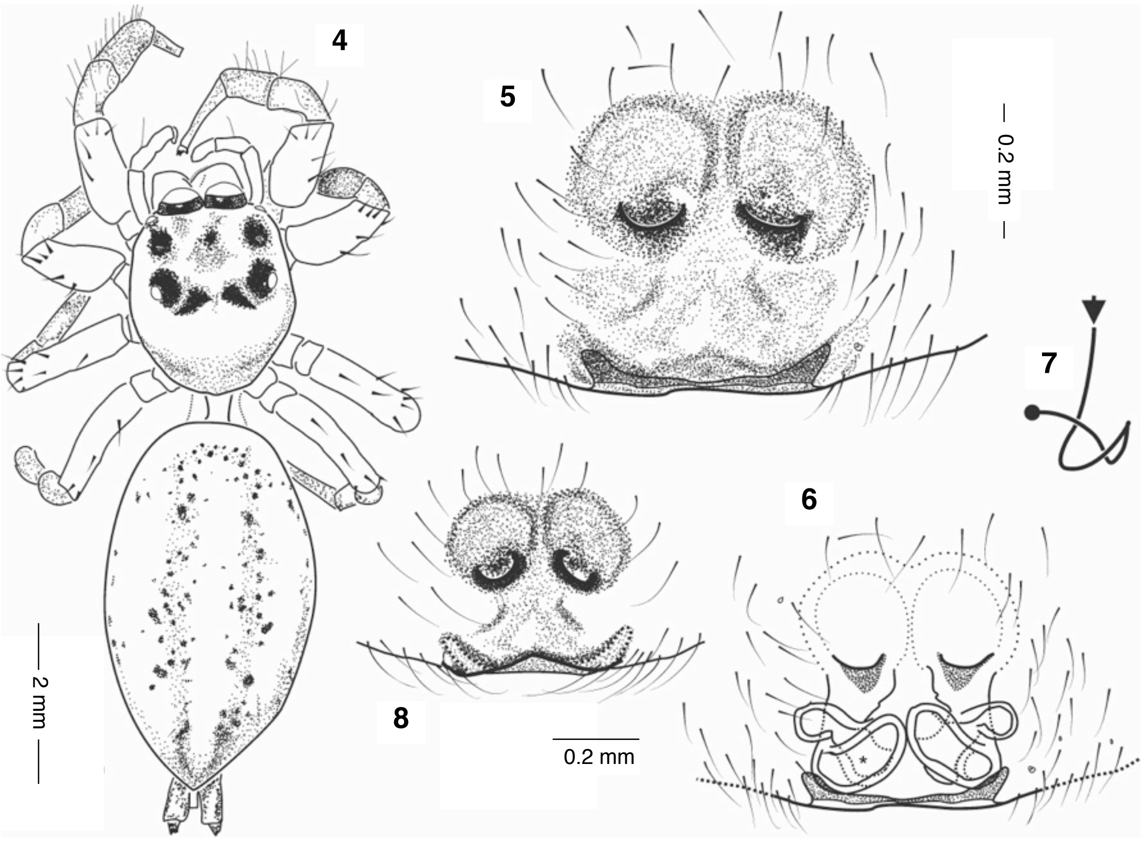

Fig. **4**-**7**. *Colonus gracilis* **sp**. **n**., ♀ paratype. **4**. Dorsal habitus. **5**. Epigyne in ventral view. **6**. Same, cleared; **7**. Same, scheme of course. **Fig**. **8**. *C. melanogaster*, ♀, epigyne in ventral view (IBSI-Ar 01797).

pale brown with scattered black setae; black blotches around eyes, on central area and posterior to PLE (as in male). No dark line around margin of carapace. Clypeus and chelicerae pale brown, yellowish. Chelicerae with three promarginal teeth and one bicuspid retromarginal tooth. Endites, labium and sternum pale yellow. Abdomen whitish, pale yellow with scattered black setae and numerous black dots, slightly grouped in two dorsal longitudinal lines. Brown grayish band on venter. Legs and palps generally light brown, with numerous setae. Epigyne: medium size plate, sclerotized, with two anterior atria (At; wide and shallow concavity), two small lateral coupling pouches (LP) inverted V-shaped. Two slit-like copulatory openings (CO), each with a narrow-sclerotized rim; copulatory ducts (CD) relatively short, with three distinctly directed stretches, connecting to a small somewhat spherical spermatheca (Sp; like a little bag).

Distribution. – Only known from the south of Misiones, Argentina.

Habitats. – Specimens were found in disturbed weedy and grassy habitats, on a citrus plant, near abandoned tea crops (*Camellia sinensis* (L.) Kuntze).

Relationships. – *Colonus gracilis* **sp**. **n**. shares a geographic region in South America with other species of the genus such as *C. robustus*, *C. germaini*, *C. vaccula*, *C. pallidus*, *C. alineae* **sp**. **n**., *C. melanogaster*, and *C. punctulatus* (Mello-Leitão, 1917). Of these, the last two entities seem to be closely related in terms of morphology, however the information regarding *C. punctulatus* is almost nil and the types were lost or destroyed, therefore we cannot rule out 100% the possibility of a remote synonymy.

Material examined for comparison. – *Colonus melanogaster* (see below).

Colonus alineae sp. n.

(Fig. 15-26)

ZooBank: http://zoobank.org/5B3363CE-FB38-4D4C-9BF6-E1D13C1A3C5A

Holotype, ♂ (UFRJ 0835), arredores da sede, Santuário do Caraça, Catas Altas, Minas Gerais, Brazil, 05/X/2010, sweeping cerrado vegetation, coll. R. Baptista.

Paratype

- 1 ♀ (UFRJ 0835A), same data as the holotype;
- 1 ♂ (UFRJ 2069), CSV, Anchieta, Espírito Santo, Brazil, 19/VIII/2008, Baptista, R. coll.;
- 1 ♂ (UFRJ 2065), Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu, Fragmento, Cachoeiras de Macacu, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 18/XII/2017, night visual collecting, coll. R. Baptista;
- 1 ♀ (UFRJ 2066), Trilha Verde, same place as UFRJ 2065, 01/IX/2019, vegetation beating, coll. R. Baptista;
- 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (MCN 31770), Barragem dos Bugres, Canela, Rio Grande do Sul, 13-14/XII/1999, coll. A.L.H. Silva.

Material examined

BRASIL

- Minas Gerais: Catas Altas, Serra do Caraça. 12-23/XI/1961. Kloss, R., Lenko, F. & Martins, U. coll., 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (MZSP 19670).

- Espírito Santo: Linhares, Fazenda Caliman. 03/II/2011. Baptista, R. coll., vegetation beating, 1 ♂ (UFRJ 2072), Castro, D. coll., bush sweeping, 1 ♀ (UFRJ 2074);

idem, 22/IV/2011. Baptista, R. coll., bush sweeping, 1 ♂, 3 Juv (UFRJ 2073).

- Rio de Janeiro: Cachoeiras de Macacu, Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu, Lagoa. 08/IX/2018. Schinelli, H. coll., vegetation beating, 1 ♂, 1 Juv (UFRJ 2067);

idem, 17.I.2020. Schinelli, H. coll., night visual collecting, 1♂ (UFRJ 2068);

- Macaé, Jurubatiba, captação TECAB. 08/XII/2012. Miranda, G. coll., vegetation beating, 1 ♀ (UFRJ 2076);

25/IX/2012. Pedroso, D. coll., night visual collecting, 1 ♂ (UFRJ 2077);

11/IV/2014. Pedroso, D. coll., vegetation beating, 1 ♀, 1 Juv (UFRJ 2078);

08/VIII/2016. Pedroso, D. coll., vegetation beating, 1 ♀, 2 Juv (UFRJ 2079);

10/V/2016. Villareal, O. coll., vegetation beating, 1 ♀ (UFRJ 2080);

- Rio de Janeiro, Parque Estadual da Pedra Branca, Camorim. 16/XII/2013. Baptista, R. coll., vegetation beating, 1 ♀ (UFRJ 2075).

- Mato Grosso do Sul: Três Lagoas, Fazenda São José Mendes. 23/IX/1964. Expedição Departamento de Zoologia coll. 1 ♂ (MZSP 03656);

idem. X/1961. Expedição Departamento de Zoologia coll. 1 ♂ (MZSP 10692);

- São Paulo: Embu-Guaçu, Batêa. 02/XI/1940. Lane, F. coll. 1 ♂ (MZSP 19668);

- Santa Catarina: Reserva Biológica Marinha do Arvoredo. X/1993. Lise, A.A. & Braul Jr., A. coll. 1♀ (MCTP 04491), 1 ♂ (MCTP 04492);

- Rio Grande do Sul: Cachoeira do Sul, Alta dos Casimiros. 14/XI/1992. Buss, R.G. coll. 1 ♂ (MCTP 06455);

- Campo Bom, 18/XI/1987. Becker, C.J. coll. 1 ♂ (MCTP 06496);

- Canela, Barragem dos Bugres. 23/XI/1998. Silva, A.L.H. coll. 1 ♀ (MCN 30018).

idem. 25/XI/1998. Moura, L. coll. 1 ♀ (MCN 30011);

idem. 23/XI/1998. Franceschini, A. coll. 1 ♀ (MCN 30019A);

- Canela, Passo dos Bugres. 06/XI/1998. Bonaldo, A.B. coll. 1 ♂ (MCN 30038);

- Canoas. 14/XI/1990. Marques, M.A.L. coll. 1 ♀ (MCN 20103A);

- Caxias do Sul, Fazenda Souza. 11-12/XI/1995. Laboratório de Aracnologia coll. 1 ♂, 3 ♀ (MCTP 07368);

- Estrela Velha. 19/X/1998. Bonaldo, A.B. coll. 1 ♀ (MCN 29914);

- Santa Cruz do Sul. 20/XI/1994. Ott, R. coll. 1 ♂ (MCTP 06575);

- São Francisco de Paula, Barragem Passo do Inferno. 19/XI/1997. Buckup, E.H. coll. 1 ♂ (MCN 28936);

- São Francisco de Paula, Passo do Bugres. 04/XI/1985. Bonaldo, A.B. coll. 1 ♂, 2 ♀ (MCN 29947);

- São Francisco de Paula, Passo do Inferno, Fazenda 3 cachoeiras. 05/XI/1998. Silva, A.L.H. coll. 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 Juv. (MCN 29961);

- São Francisco de Paula, Usina Hidrelétrica dos Bugres. 18/X/1997. Buckup, E.H. coll. 1 ♀ (MCN 28765);

- São Francisco de Paula, Usina Passo do Inferno. 03/XI/1998. Silva, A.L.H. coll. 1 ♂ (MCN 30036);

- São Leopoldo, Banhado das Freiras. X/1973. Becker, C. J. coll. 1 ♂ (MCN 27595);

- Triunfo. 15/X/1980. Buckup, E.H. coll. 1 ♂ (MCN 09249);

idem. 28/XI/1989. Buckup, E.H. coll. 1 ♀ (MCN 19006);

ARGENTINA

- Misiones: Santa Maria. 10/IX/1953. Schiapelli & De Carlo coll. 1 ♂, 1 ♀. 1 Juv. (MACN-Ar);

idem. VI-XII/1952. Viana, J. coll. 1 ♂ (MACN-Ar).

Diagnosis. – *Colonus alineae* **sp**. **n**. resembles closely *C. rishwani* (Makhan, 2006) from Suriname, known only from the male holotype (Makhan, 2006: Fig. 1-3) and *C. pseustes* (Chamberlin & Ivie, 1936) from Panama and Brazil (Bedoya-Roqueme & Lopez-Villada, 2020: Fig. 1-11). In these three species, the males have a dRTA elongated, cylindrical, and with similar width since its basis to near its tip, which is slightly acuminated, and a vRTA also elongated and of approximately the same width of the dRTA. *Colonus alineae* **sp**. **n**. male differs from all *Colonus* species by a small soft, translucent, and innerly directed projection at the dRTA tip (easily seen in retrolateral view) (Fig. 19, 21), which is rounded and thinner than the remaining dRTA portions, and the largest clypeus of the genus, almost as long as the AME diameter. It has a similar color pattern to *C. pseustes*, specially the carapace white scale stripes, but with a smaller, oblong, spot of white scales between the PME (both lacking in some specimens), and well-marked transversal black stripes just behind the PME (Fig. 15), differing also by its vRTA with a less robust basis, a

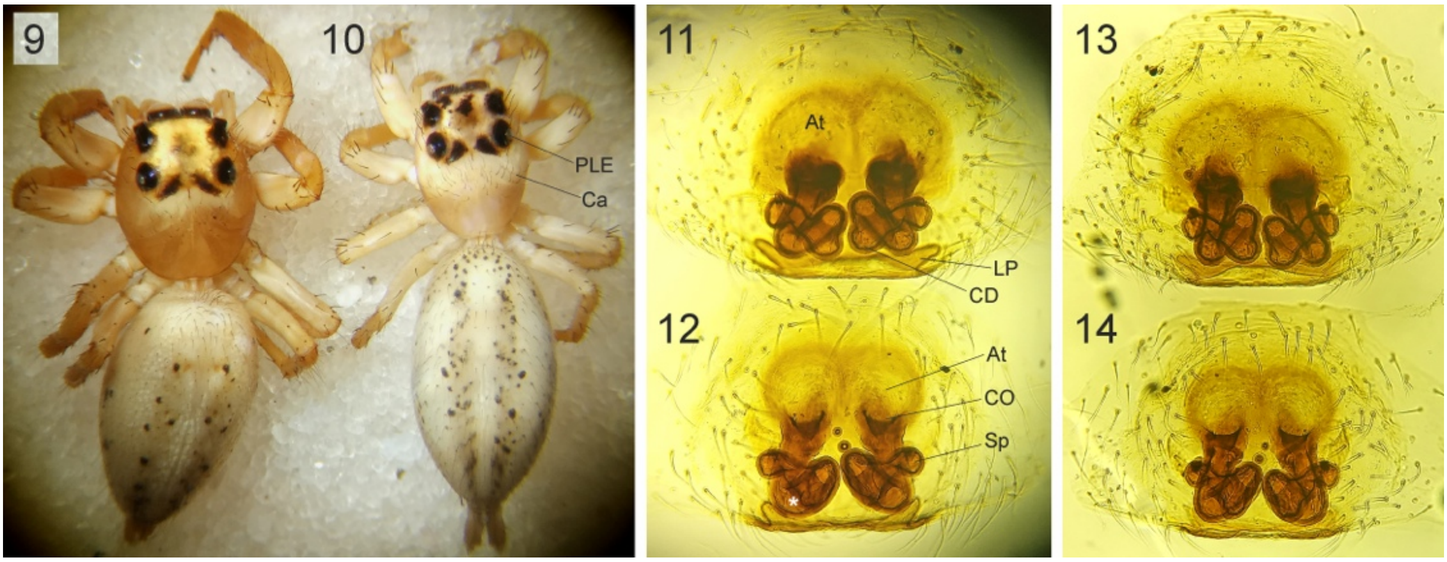

Fig. **9**, **11**, **13**. *Colonus melanogaster*, ♀ and **Fig**. **10**, **12**, **14**. *C. gracilis* **sp**. **n**., ♀ (same microscope field for comparison).
9-**10**. Dorsal habitus. **11**-**12**. Cleared epigyne in ventral view. **13**-**14**. Same, dorsal view (**At** = atrium; **Ca** = carapace; **CD** = copulatory duct; **CO** = copulatory opening; **LP** = lateral coupling pouch; **PLE** = posterior lateral eye; **Sp** = spermatheca).

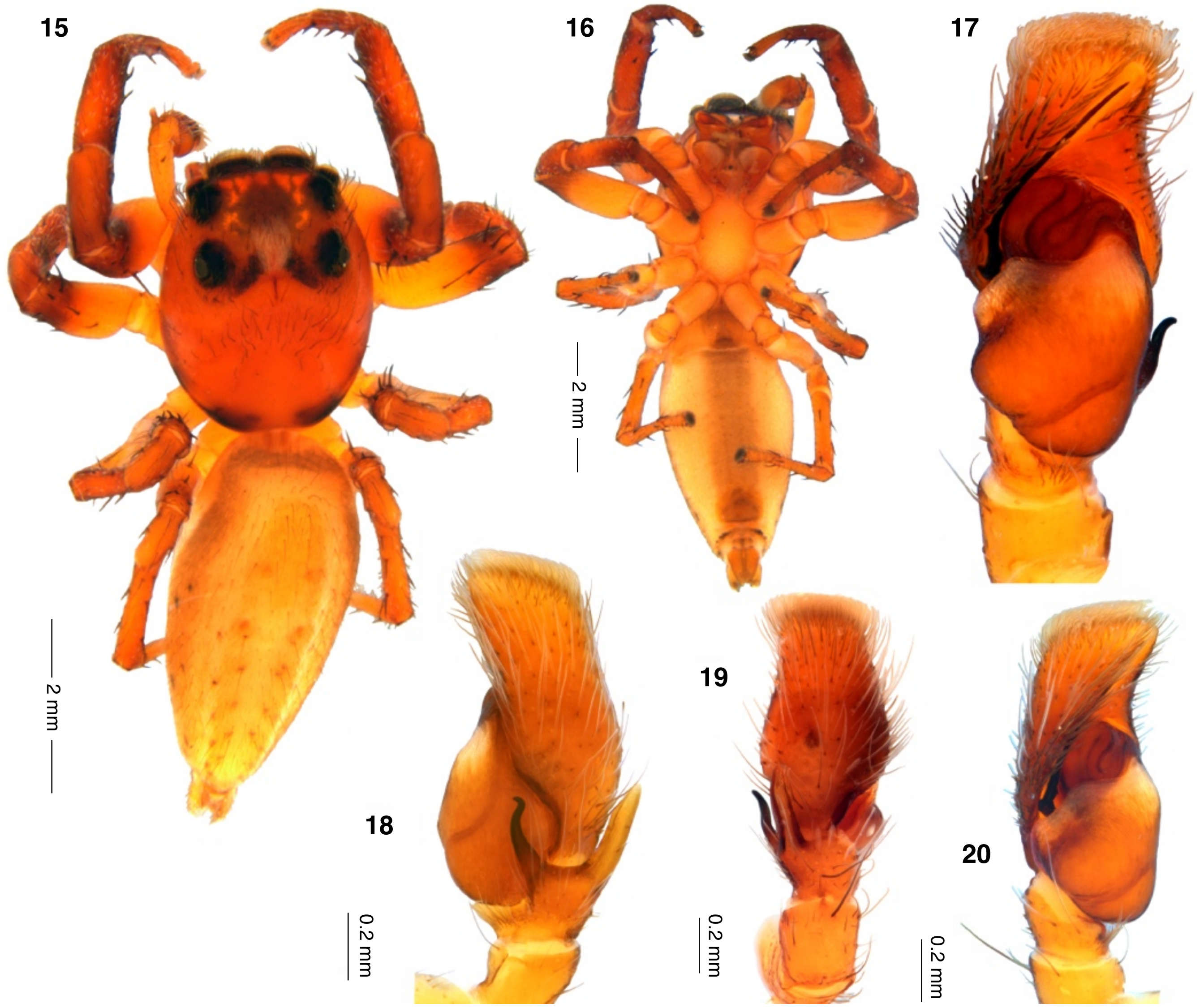

Fig. **15**-**20**. *Colonus alineae* **sp**. **n**., ♂ holotype.
15. Dorsal habitus. **16**. Ventral habitus. **17**. Palp in ventral view, slightly inclined showing keels at embolus basis. **18**. Same, retrolateral. **19**. Same, dorsal. **20**. Same, prolateral.

more curved median section and its tip presenting a clear twist in ventral direction, forming a blunt hook, by the wider 'U'-shaped angle formed by the dRTA and vRTA near the basis of the apophysis (not the 'V'-shape of *C. pseustes*), vRTA much shorter than the dRTA, which is stouter (*C. pseustes* has a dRTA relatively thin, varying from a little longer to shorter than the vRTA), spermophore (or sperm ducts) with thinner loops visible in ventral view, the median one not extending far beyond the tegular membranous field (versus spermophore much larger loops, the median one reaching far beyond the field), and the embolus with its basal section bearing three rounded keels and distal third not flattened (basal section simple and flattened distal third in *T. pseustes*) (Fig. 17-21). *Colonus alineae* **sp**. **n**. male differs *C. rishwani* by its smaller size (7.0-7.5 mm versus 8.4 mm), color pattern, specially the absence or great reduction of the large spot of white scales between the PME and of the two bands of white scales at the abdomen (Fig. 15), two median teeth of the outer row of the chelicera larger than the other two teeth, the dRTA wider and with a soft projection innerly directed, the vRTA with a basis not quite enlarged and an 'U'-shaped angle between the vRTA and the dRTA (versus 'V'-shaped). Although both species have similar bulb, *C. rishwani* has the first and most proximal keel at the basal section of the embolus much larger than the others, the median keel turned to the prolateral side of the embolus and the distal keel larger. Also, the distal portion of embolus after the keels seems to be smaller and with a thinner tip. Furthermore, the large spermophore seen through the distal portion of the tegulum presents closed median loop, with the ducts of both sides touching each other (Fig. 17-21, Makhan, 2006: Fig. 1-2). The females of *Colonus alineae* **sp**. **n**. and *C. pseustes* have three CD loops, the two first ones larger, of about the same width and transversely placed. Compared to *C. pseustes*, the new species has a wider than long epigyne, copulatory atria wider than long and much larger, with hardened borders (versus small, rounded, naked atria), smaller CD, placed farther from the ones on the opposite side, the LP more elongated and reaching sideways beyond the ectal border of the CD (versus smaller LP reaching about the same level of the ectal border of CD) (Fig. 26). Also, most females of the new species bear an elevated, more sclerotized anterior rim just before the atria, contrasting with the flat anterior portion of the epigyne in *C. pseustes* (Fig. 24-26).

Etymology. – The specific name is a noun in the genitive case in honor to Aline Pires de Melo, who first recognized the species together with her husband, R. Baptista, and graciously allowed us to use data from her unpublished M. Sc. Dissertation (Melo-Nogueira, 2003).

Description of the male (holotype UFRJ 0835, Fig. 15-20)

Total length 7.3; carapace length 3.1, width 2.6; abdomen length 4.2. AME roughly 2x larger than the ALE. PME much closer to ALE than PLE. Clypeus a little shorter than the AME diameter. Leg formula 4132. Free portion of the bulbous setae of tibia I 4x longer than the bulb itself. Carapace brown, with few scattered black setae, more abundant around the eye region and at the beginning of the thoracic area. Cephalic pars with just a few yellowish white guanine spots, eye region with dark brow central spot, black spots around the eyes, and transverse posterior black stripes just behind PME. White covering scales (easily lost in alcohol) forming small oblong area between the PME and forming two thin straight, little defined longitudinal stripes at both sides of the middle line of the thoracic pars. Lateral margins and clypeus with interrupted dark brown stripe. Chelicera: Paturon about 2.5x longer than wide, with depressed areas near the outer margin of the basis and near the inner margin of the apex. Four promarginal teeth closely placed (two median ones larger) and two retromarginal teeth of same size. Paturon dark brown, with paler bands near the outer margins. Endites and labium brown with paler apical areas. Sternum yellowish brown. Abdomen dirty yellow, with cardiac area brownish yellow separating two pale yellow thin longitudinal stripes, with black dots at the basis of larger setae aligned at two jagged lines at the posterior half of the dorsum and also scattered at both sides. Venter with a wide grey longitudinal band, covering a brown patch near the spinnerets. Median spinnerets brown, other pairs yellow. Legs yellowish brown, femora with lateral faces dark brown. Legs I-II with remaining articles brown (tarsus a bit paler) and a dark brown distal ring in femur. Palp pale brown. Tibia shorter than the patella, longer than wide, with an evident prolateroventral bulge. dRTA aligned with the longitudinal axis of the cymbium, cylindrical, wide, just a little arched, with similar width from basis to near the slightly acuminated and innerly directed tip, which is covered by a small soft, translucent lobe. dRTA much longer than the vRTA, both connected at their bases forming a wide 'U'-shaped angle. vRTA with basal half just a bit thinner than the dRTA, but its distal half thinner and more sclerotized, S-shaped, with its tip in a blunt hook, due to a ventrally directed twist. Spermophore (S) placed on the distal portion of the tegulum above the membranous field, with four separated and not very wide loops, the median one reaching just a little after the tegular membranous field. Embolus elongated, filiform, with its basis not hidden by the cymbium in prolateral view, basal third with three rounded, sinuous keels, a larger one near basis, followed by two other smaller keels, the last one placed at the end of the basal third, median third wide, with a shallow curve, distal third straight, clearly tapering towards the tip.

Description of the female (paratype UFRJ 2071, Fig. 22-25)

Total length 7.3; carapace length 3.0, width 2.8; abdomen length 4.3. Similar to male in somatic characters and color pattern, but with body pale yellow and less extensive dark markings. Eye region with smaller central dark spot and transverse posterior black stripes. Dark stripe on the margins and clypeus lacking and white covering scales very reduced in size (fallen in alcohol?). Chelicera, sternum, maxilla, labium, legs, abdomen and spinnerets pale brownish yellow. Dorsum of abdomen with scattered black dots along two longitudinal irregular stripes. Venter without the central dark longitudinal stripe. Clypeus a little shorter than the AME diameter. Tibia I (1.6 mm) smaller than in male (2.0). Epigyne: medium size sclerotized plate, around twice as wider than long, two anterior atria, formed by deep, oblong cavities with rigid borders, two anterior sclerotized elevated lips form a rim just before the atria, CO small, triangular, placed at the bottom of the atria, LP wider than long, with inverted V-shape, reaching sideways farther than the ectal border of the CD, separated and not connected at the middle of the convex and projected posterior median lobe. CD relatively thin, forming three well separated loops after the CO, the last one much smaller, with a clear bend in ectal direction and transversally placed between the turns of the two first loops, ending in a small roundish spermatheca, with diameter a little larger than the last loop of the CD, and irregular membranous fertilization duct, which are placed at a more anterior position than most of the loops.

Variation. – Males (n=5): 7.3 (7.0-7.5). Males may have only two or three promarginal teeth on chelicera, with the smaller distal ones lacking, eye region with dark central spot and brown transverse stripe not distinct, white covering scales between the PME and in lateral stripes may be absent or reduced to a few (maybe fallen in alcohol), and specimens with ligther color pattern may lack the dark brown bands at the anterior margin and sides of abdomen. Dorsum of abdomen may lack the scattered black dots and bear guanine patches. Females (n=5): 7.8 (6.5-9.4). Females may have only three promarginal teeth on chelicera and just one big or three small retromarginal ones, abdomen with dorsum sometimes without black dots and with two white stripes at the sides of the cardiac area, and venter with sides covered by white guanine spots. Epigyne may have oblong atria with mesial borders almost touching each other, sometimes the elevated anterior rim delimiting the plate from the body surface is reduced. CD usually placed at the same level of the atria, but sometimes a little displaced sideways. Last loop of CD may be seen medially and not hidden by the larger second loop just before the bend in ectal direction (MCTP 30018, Fig. 26).

Distribution. – This species has been found in Brazil, at the Central-west (Mato Grosso do Sul state), Southeastern (Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo) and South regions (Santa Catarina, Rio Grande do Sul), and northeastern Argentina (southeast of Misiones province).

Habitats. – Specimens of *Colonus alineae* **sp**. **n**. have been mostly collected in Atlantic forest, in woods as well as in open areas near

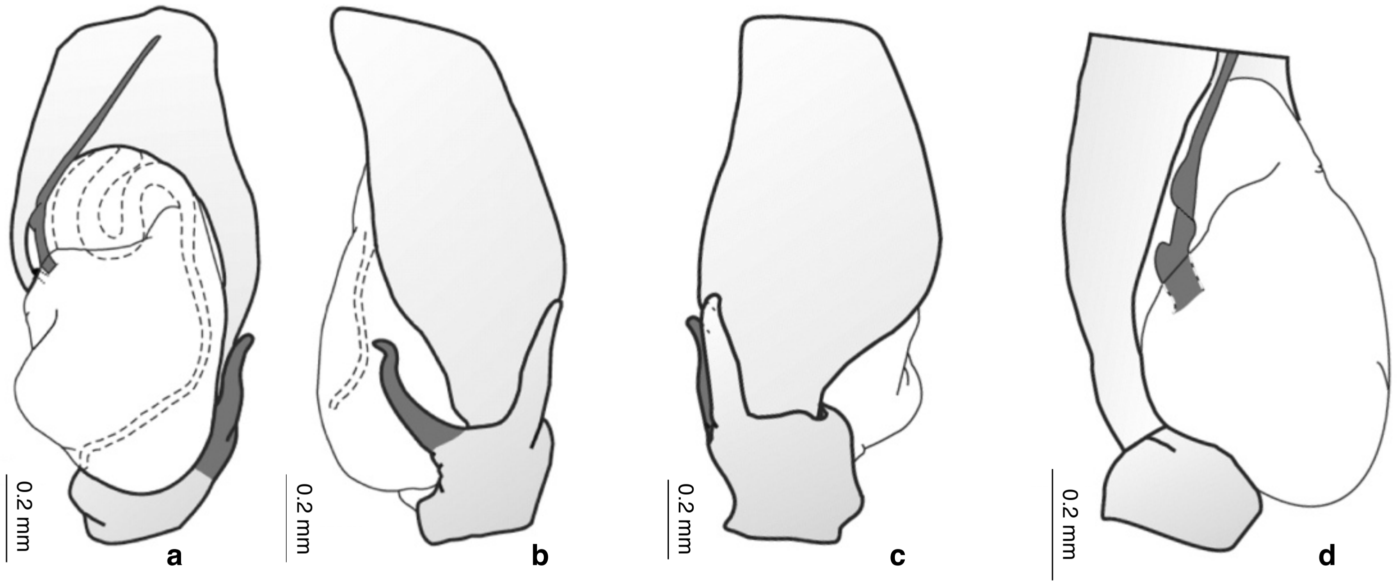

Fig. **21**. *Colonus alineae* **sp**. **n**., ♂ (MZSP 19668). Palp schemes. **a**. Ventral. **b**. Retrolateral. **c**. Dorsal. **d**. Prolateral.

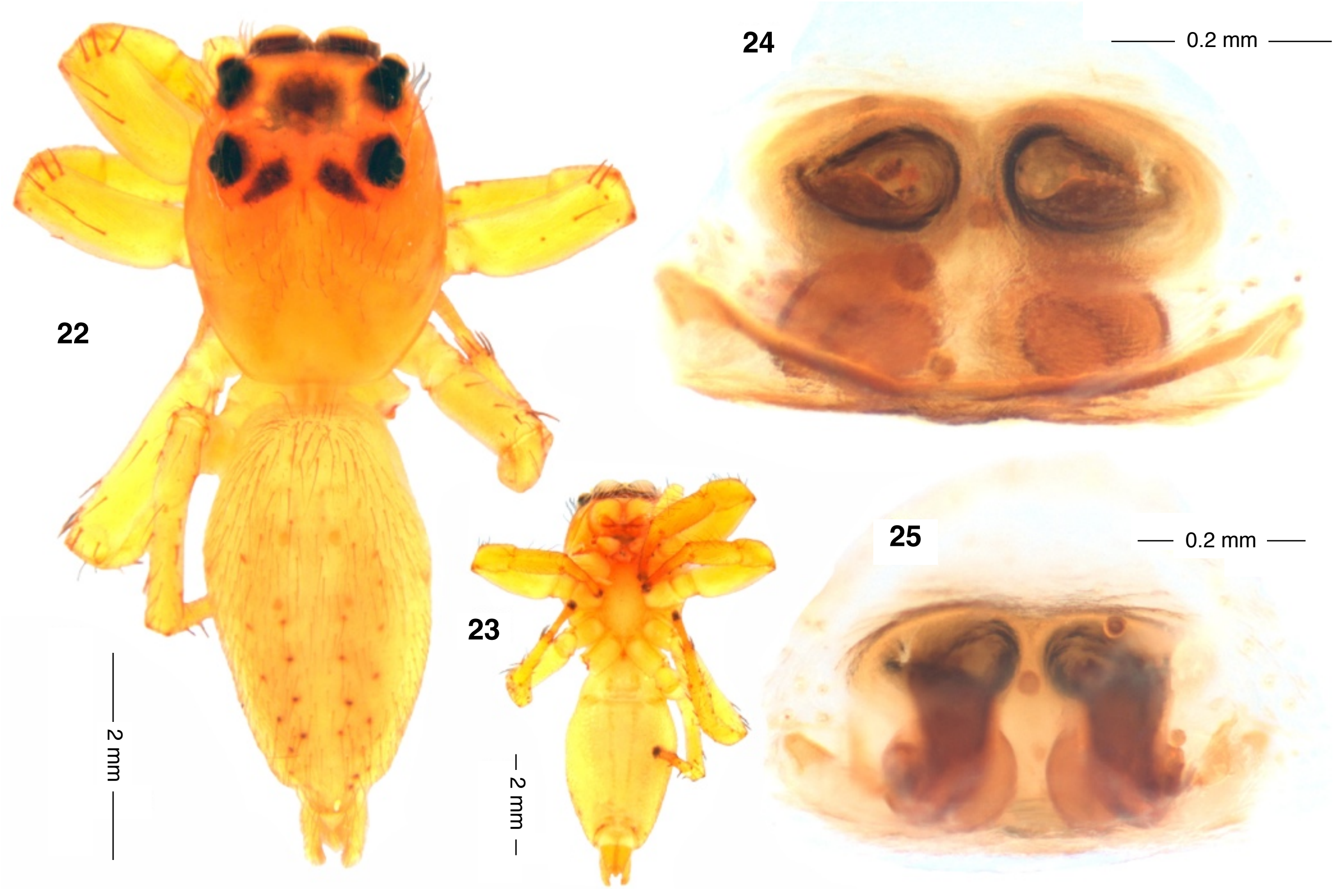

Fig. **22**-**25**. *Colonus alineae* **sp**. **n**., ♀ paratype (UFRJ 2071). **22**. Dorsal habitus. **23**. Ventral habitus. **24**. Cleared epigyne in ventral view. **25**. Same, dorsal view.

woods, like pastures and farms. It also has been collected in open areas in Cerrado-Atlantic forest ecotones, as in Caraça, Minas Gerais. Most specimens were caught by beating small trees and high bushes or by sweeping low bushes and herbs, but also by night visual collecting.

Colonus melanogaster (Mello-Leitão, 1917)

(Fig. 8-9; 11, 13)

Thiodina melanogaster Mello-Leitão, 1917: 132, f. 4.
Colonus melanogaster Bustamante, Maddison & Ruiz, 2015: 187.
C. melanogaster Pett, Rubio & Stolar, 2021: 926, f. 6D-G.

Material examined

- **1** ♀ (MZSP 19667), Canguaretama, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil, M. Alvarenga, 02/XII/1951;
- **1** ♂ (MCN 22702), Porto Nacional, Tocantins, Brazil, J. Dourado, 10-13/XI/1992;
- **1** ♀ (IBSP 26305), São Domingos, Goiás, Brazil, C. Rheims, VIII/2000;
- **1** ♀ (IBSP 4805), Bahia, Brazil, T. Nunes;
- **1** ♂ (MZSP 19658), Rio São José, Espírito Santo, Brazil, B. Soares, 13/IX/1942;
- **1** ♀ (IBSP 6792), Paranaíba, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, R. Silva, 1983;
- **1** ♂ (MCN 21015), **1** ♀ (MCN 21016), Pousada Caiman, Miranda, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, A. Meyer, 06/V/1991;
- **1** ♀ (IBSP 26439), Usina Hidrelétrica de Rosal, Bom Jesus do Itabapoana, Rio de janeiro, Brazil, I. Knysak, XI/1999;
- **1** ♂ (UFRJ 936), Parque Municipal Atalaia, Macaé, Rio de janeiro, Brazil, F. Queiroz, 19/I/2014;
- **1** ♂, **3** ♀ (UFRJ 473), Campo dos Afonsos, Rio de Janeiro, Rio de janeiro, Brazil, R. Baptista, P. Castanheira, N. Mateini, 23/VII/2010;
- **1** ♀ (MNRJ, lost in fire), Ilha do Fundão, Rio de Janeiro, Rio de janeiro, Brazil, R. Baptista, 03/VI/1987;
- **1** ♂ (MNRJ, lost in fire), Quinta da Boa Vista, Rio de Janeiro, Rio de janeiro, Brazil, R. Baptista, 31/IV/1986;
- **1** ♂ (MZSP 19680), Avaré, São Paulo, Brazil, F. Lane, 14/IX/1974;
- **1** ♀ (MZSP 19683), Caraguatatuba, São Paulo, Brazil, Excursão Dept. Zool., 22/V-01/06/1962;
- **1** ♂ (MCN 7289), Montenegro, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, M. Tavares, 17/XI/1977;
- **1** ♀ (MCN 20103), Canoas, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, M. Marques, 14/XI/1990;
- **1** ♀ (MCN 20116), Canoas, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, C. Becker, 14/XI/1990;
- **5** ♂, **1** ♀ (MCTP 5754), Guaíba, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, Lab. Aracnologia, 29/X/1994;
- **1** ♂ (MCTP 4504), Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, A. Braul Jr., 27/XI/1993;
- **1** ♂ (MCTP 4504), Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, A. Braul Jr., 27/XI/1993;
- **1** ♀ (MCN 11871), Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, A. Braul Jr., 27/XI/1993;
- **1** ♂ (MCTP 2635), Morro da Fortaleza, Itapuã, Viamão, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, A. Braul Jr., 21-22/XI/1992;
- **1** ♂, **1** ♀ (IBSI-Ar 01132), INTA Experimental Station (S27.6575°, W55.4374°), Cerro Azul, Misiones, Argentina, 4/IX/2018, coll. C. Stolar, on citronella grasses;
- **1** ♂ (IBSI-Ar 01510), Garupá (S27.4520°, W55.8845°), Misiones, Argentina, 9/X/2020, coll. J. Baigorria;
- **1** ♂ (IBSI-Ar 01606), Candelaria (S27.4802°, W55.7925°), Misiones, Argentina, 5/II/2021, coll. G. Rubio, J. Baigorria & C. Stolar;
- **1** ♀ (IBSI-Ar 01797), same locality, 30/VII/2020, coll. J. Baigorria;
- **1** ♂ (IBSI-Ar 00841) Chaco National Park (S26.8227°, W59.6201°), Capitán Solari, Chaco, Argentina, 24/X/2016, coll. G. Rubio & E. Meza-Torres;
- **1** ♂, **3** ♀ (IBSI-Ar 01665), Chicligasta (S27.3054°, W65.6388°), Tucumán, Argentina, 17/XI/2021, coll. C. Stolar;
- **1** ♂ (IBSI-Ar 01671), Lules (S26.9210°, W65.3442°), Tucumán, Argentina, 22/XI/2021, same coll.;
- **1** ♂ (IBSI-Ar 00826), Córdoba (S31.3695°, W64.2441°), Córdoba, Argentina, 7/III/2014, coll. C. Argañaraz, sample of her doctoral thesis;
- **1** ♀ (LBRE-Ar; temporary preparation GDR.id 147), Villa Rumipal (S32.1814°, W64.4784°), Calamuchita, Córdoba, Argentina, 2005, coll. M. Izquierdo;
- **1** ♂ (IBSP 17242), Cerro Arequita, Lavalleja, Uruguay, A. Brescovit, 05/XII/1997.

Diagnosis. – Female of *C. melanogaster* is very similar to those of *C. gracilis* **sp. n.** by the structures of the epigyne (compare Fig. 5-6, 8, 11-14 in this paper), but can be distinguished from it by having the border of the CO more sclerotized, each atrium (At) as wide as long, the lateral pouch (LP) directed more sideways, and the second stretch of the CD narrowest (indicated with an asterisk). Additionally, the carapace (C) of *C. melanogaster* is wider than that of *C. gracilis* **sp. n.** (notable especially in the relationship with its edges and the PLE). See the comparison of figures 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14.

Description of the female (IBSI-Ar 01797)

Total length 7.75; carapace length 3.20; carapace width 2.46; abdomen length 4.53. PME slightly closer to ALE than PLE. Leg formula 4312. Carapace light brown with scattered black setae, longer on the sides of the ALE and PME; black blotches around eyes and two triangular dark spots behind and between the PLE. Ocular quadrangle pale yellow, with a slightly darker spot in the center and guanine reticulate. No dark line around margin of carapace. Clypeus and chelicerae light brown, yellowish. Chelicerae with four promarginal teeth and two retromarginal teeth. Endites, labium and sternum pale yellow. Abdomen whitish, pale yellow with guanine reticulate and scattered black setae and various black dots. Venter with some black dots. Legs and palps strong, generally brown and with numerous setae. Epigyne: quite similar to that of *C. gracilis* **sp. n.**, medium size plate, sclerotized, with two anterior atria (At; wide and shallow concavity), two small lateral coupling pouches (LP) inverted V-shaped. Two conspicuous copulatory openings (CO), each with a sclerotized rim; copulatory ducts (CD) relatively short, with three distinctly directed stretches, connecting to a small somewhat spherical spermatheca (Sp; like a little bag).

Distribution. – Known from Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and the central and northern Argentina.

Acknowledgments

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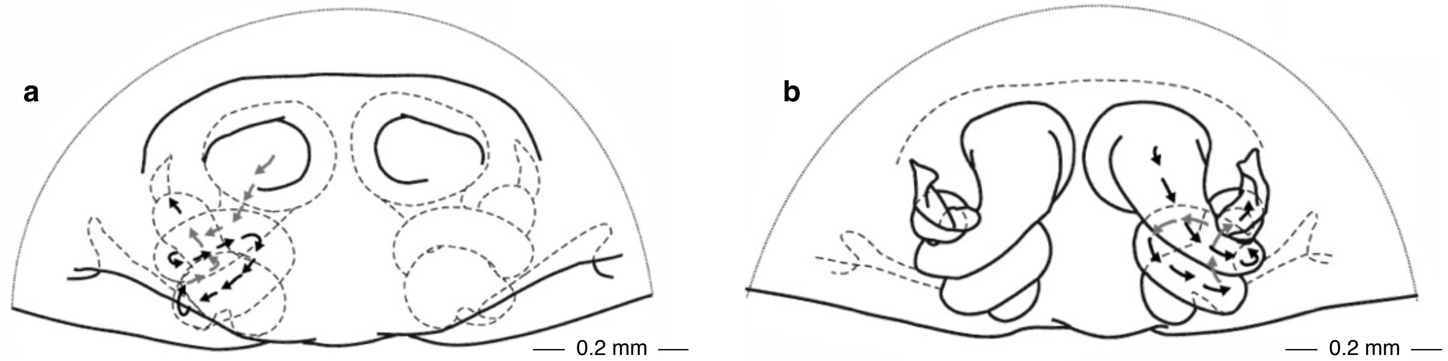

Fig. **26**. *Colonus alineae* **sp. n**, ♀ (MCTP 30018). Epigyne schemes views (with scheme of course). **a**. Ventral. **b**. Dorsal (slightly inclined).

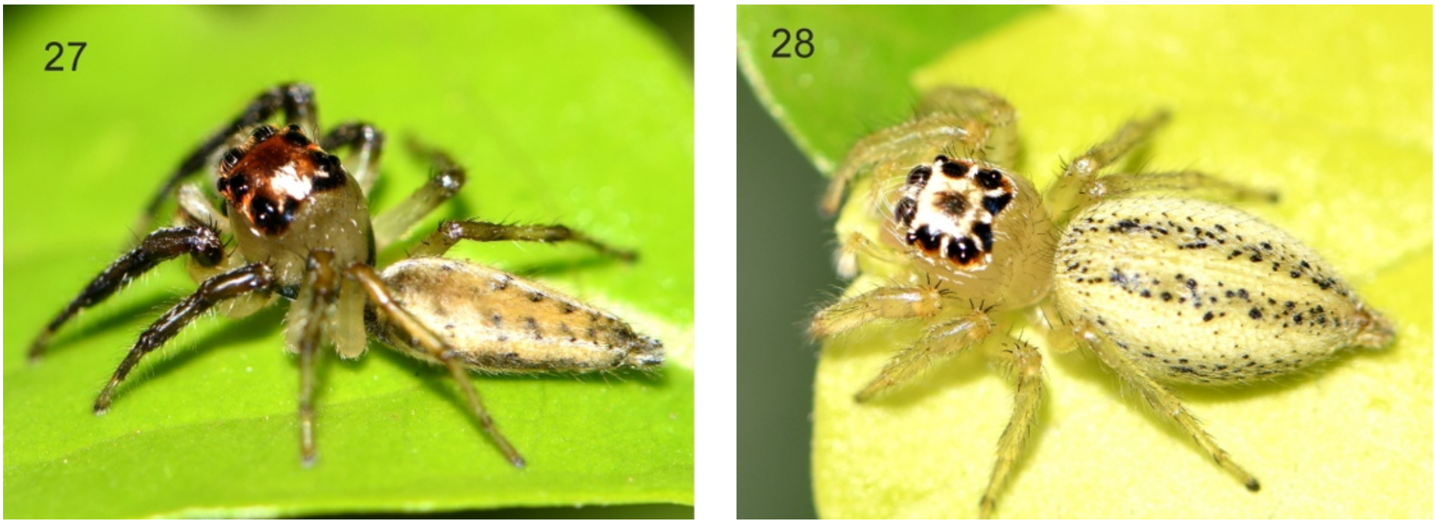

Fig. **27**-**28**. *Colonus gracilis* **sp**. **n**., habitus in nature from Cerro Azul, Misiones. **27**. ♂ holotype. **28**. ♀ paratype.

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Contribution of the authors [1]

Project initiator. – SC, RG, BJ
Scientific coordinator. – RG
Publisher Correspondence. – RG
Writing the article. – RG, SC, BJ, BR
Description of the species. – RG, BR
Article proofreading. – RG, BJ, SC
Bibliographic work. – RG
Material study. – RG, BR, BJ
Author of the figures. – RG

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Résumé

Rubio G.D., Stolar C.E., Baigorria J.E.M. & Baptista R.L.C., 2023. – Description de deux nouvelles espèces d'araignées sauteuses *Colonus* F. O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1901 (Araneae : Salticidae) du Brésil et d'Argentine. *Faunitaxys*, 11(58): 1 – 10.

Nous décrivons deux nouvelles espèces du genre *Colonus* F.O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1901 (Araneae, Salticidae): *Colonus gracilis* **sp. n.** (♂♀) d'Argentine et *Colonus alineae* **sp. n.** (♂♀) d'Argentine et du Brésil. Nous décrivons la femelle de *C. melanogaster*.

Mots-clés. – Araneae, *Colonus*, *melanogaster*, Gophoini, salticides, espèces nouvelles, taxonomie, Amérique du Sud.

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Illustration de la couverture :

Colonus gracilis **sp. n.**, female in nature.

Crédits:

Gonzalo D. Rubio : Fig. 1-28 et couverture.

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